

**Glenda Wiles**

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**Sent:** Friday, July 20, 2007 8:16 PM  
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**Subject:** [Probably SPAM] - 7/20/07 Bitterroot National Forest fire update - Lots of smoke, but few new starts



# Bitterroot National Forest

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## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**JUL 23 2007**

**1130 (cell)**

**Ravalli County Commissioners**

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**Lots of Smoke but Few New Starts ”**

Hamilton, Montana, July 20, 2007 8:30 pm — Despite the tremendous amount of smoke filling the valley, the Bitterroot National Forest only three new starts today.

7/23/2007

\* Rock Creek 34 is a 1 acre fire west of Lake Como, just inside the Wilderness boundary. The Forest dispatched 6 helirapellers to fight the new start, and they are being assisted by helicopter bucket work.

\* El Capitan, on the West Fork Ranger District, is less than one acre and is being considered for wildland fire use.

\* The Chain of Lakes fire is located along the Chain of Lakes trail, on the Sula Ranger District, and is 1/10 of an acre in size. Three firefighters are completing initial attack on that fire which was declared contained this afternoon.

The smoke that began filling the valley late this afternoon is coming from several large fires in central and southern Idaho. Forest Spokeswoman Nan Christianson encourages people to visit the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration website at [www.ssd.noaa.gov/PS/FIRE/hms.html](http://www.ssd.noaa.gov/PS/FIRE/hms.html) and view a map of the wind-carried smoke plumes from these Idaho fires.

For the most current information about new and existing starts on the Bitterroot National Forest, please visit our Dispatchers' website at <http://63.196.254.151/WildWeb/WCMT-BRC.htm>

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